introduced in Lok Sabha on 16.12.1999 to provide legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communication, commonly referred to as "electronic commerce".

Improving the Internet Service in North-Eastern Region

1581. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary steps have been taken by Government to improve internet service in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to provide more servers in Assam for better internet service considering the increased demand;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) At present, Department of Telecommunication Services (DTS) internet nodes are operational at Guwahati and Silchar. In addition, Direct PC system have been provided at each National Informatic Centre (NIC) district unit at the district Headquarters of 67 districts of the North-Eastern States for internet browsing. E-mail services already available in all the district headquarters and the State Capitals. Education and Research Network (ERNET) India, an autonomous society under Minsitry of Information Technology has already connected Tezpur University, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Itanagar and Centre of Computer Communication Technology, Sikkim on Education and Research Network (ERNET).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Guwahati internet node is to be further upgraded and the equipment installation is expected to be completed by 31st March, 2000. Internet nodes are proposed to be installed at Jorhat, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sibsagar, Golaghat, Nagaon, Karimganj, Tejpur, North Lakhimpur, Bongaigaon, Barpeta and Dhubri. These nodes are expected to be operating during 2000-01. Besides DTS, two additional server systems are being provided at NIC State unit, Guwahati.

A Presence of Point (PoP) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati will be connected on the country wide terrestrial backbone being set up by ERNET on a 2 Mbps leased line from Calcutta. High Speed servers and routers are proposed to be installed for providing leased as well as dial up connectivity. ERNET is also providing point to point connectivity to the following seven universities:

(i) Arunachal University, Itanagar

(ii) Manipur University, Imphal

(iii) North Eastern Hill University, Shillong

(iv) Tripura University, Agartala

(v) Tezpur University, Assam

(vi) Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh

(vii) University of Roorkee.

(f) Does not arise.

Development of Software Park in Guwahati

1582. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 'Software Park' is being developed in Guwahati by STPI;

(b) if so, what is being done to ensure its speedy completion;

(c) whether steps have been taken, so far, to attract private investment in the said park;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?